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I. UNITED NATIONS SEMINAR ON PALESTINIAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT NEEDS HELD AT PARIS FROM 20 TO 22 JUNE 1994

The United Nations Seminar on Palestinian Trade and Investment Needs was held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, from 20 to 22 June 1994, under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in accordance with its mandate under General Assembly resolution 48/158 A of 20 December 1993. In that resolution, the Assembly requested the Committee to mobilize international support and assistance to the Palestinian people during the transitional period. The Committee decided to hold the seminar as a contribution to the debate on how to promote Palestinian economic and social development, which it considers essential for the achievement of a just and lasting peace.

The Committee was represented by a delegation comprising H.E. Mr. Kéba Birane Cissé (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee and head of delegation; H.E. Mr. Joseph Cassar (Malta), Rapporteur of the Committee; and Dr. Mohammed Nasser Al-Kidwa (Palestine).

The Seminar was attended by 16 experts, representatives of 39 Governments, 9 organizations of the United Nations family and representatives from 10 non-governmental organizations. The League of Arab States was also represented at the Seminar. A delegation of Palestine took part in the work of the Seminar.

Mr. Omar Massalha, Director, Coordination Unit for Assistance to the Palestinian People, made a statement at the opening session on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO. A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations was read out by his representative, Mr. Hassen M. Fodha, Director of the United Nations Information Centre, Paris. Statements were made by H.E. Mr. Kéba Birane Cissé, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and by the representative of Palestine, Mrs. Leila Shahid, General Delegate of Palestine to France and Permanent Observer of Palestine to UNESCO.

The Seminar was chaired by H.E. Mr. Kéba Birane Cissé (Senegal). H.E. Mr. Joseph Cassar (Malta) served as Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur of the Seminar.

The programme for the Seminar began with a plenary session on the theme "Building a Palestinian economy - Challenges and prospects". Statements were made by donor countries and other Governments, by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and by organizations of the United Nations system.

Subsequently, three round-table discussions, moderated by experts, were conducted, as follows:

I. Laying the foundation for Palestinian economic development

Ms. Irene Jillson, President of Policy Research, Inc. of Bethesda, Maryland (Moderator)

Mr. Hisham Awartani, Professor, Al-Najah University

Mr. George Abed, economist and senior staff member, International Monetary Fund

Mr. Kamal Hassouneh, entrepreneur from Jerusalem

Mr. Antoine Zahlan, member of the Palestine Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction

Mr. Tayseer Abdel Jaber, Director of the Arab Consulting Centre at Amman, Jordan

II. Investment for development: Palestinian needs and policy options

Mr. George Abed, economist and senior staff member, International Monetary Fund (Moderator)

Mr. Ibrahim Dakkak, member of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction

Ms. I. Jillson, President of Policy Research, Inc. of Bethesda, Maryland

Ms. Hind Salman, Associate Professor at Bethlehem University

Mr. Bassim Khoury, owner of a West Bank pharmaceutical company

Mr. Hussam Hijjawi, member of the Nablus Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Stephen Day, Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding and Chairman of the European Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine

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Mr. Simcha Bahiri, Israel-Palestine Centre for Research and Information

III. Trade for development: Palestinian needs and policy options

Mr. Tayseer Abdel Jaber, Director of the Arab Consulting Centre at Amman, Jordan (Moderator)

Mr. Hazem El Beblawi, Chairman of the Export Development Bank of Egypt

Mr. Ala'edeen Shawa, Director of the Development Resource Centre, Gaza

Mr. Ezra Sadan, Agricultural Research Organization, Israel

Mr. Mohammed S. Al-Qudwa, Chairman of the Palestinian Chamber of Commerce, Gaza Strip

At the closing of the Seminar, statements were made by Mrs. Leila Shahid, General Delegate of Palestine to France and Permanent Observer of Palestine to UNESCO, and by the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

The final report of the Seminar was submitted to the President of the Economic and Social Council in a letter from the Chairman of the Committee for circulation to the members (see E/1994/96). It will also be issued as a publication of the Division for Palestinian Rights.

II. ELEVENTH UNITED NATIONS NORTH AMERICAN NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE HELD AT TORONTO FROM 6 TO 8 JULY 1994

The Eleventh United Nations North American NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine was held at Toronto, Canada, from 6 to 8 July 1994 in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 48/158 A and B of 20 December 1993.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was represented by a delegation comprising H.E. Kéba Birane Cissé (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee and head of delegation; H.E. Mr. Ravan Farhadi (Afghanistan), Vice-Chairman of the Committee; H.E. Mr. Fernando Remírez de Estenoz Barciela (Cuba), Vice-Chairman of the Committee; H.E. Mr. Joseph Cassar (Malta), Rapporteur of the Committee; and Dr. M. Nasser Al-Kidwa (Palestine).

The Symposium was attended by representatives of 58 non-governmental organizations, including a number of new organizations attending a North American NGO Symposium for the first time. In four plenary sessions, 19 experts presented papers and statements on the reconstruction and nation-building process during the transition period in the light of the Declaration of Principles and subsequent agreements. Six workshops were held, with 20 experts discussing issues relevant to the question of Palestine. Representatives of 15 Governments attended the deliberations as observers. Altogether, more than 200 participants attended the Symposium.

At the opening of the Symposium, statements were made by Mr. Mac Harb, Parliamentary Secretary to the Canadian Minister of International Trade; H.E. Mr. Kéba Birane Cissé, Chairman of the Committee; Dr. M. Nasser Al-Kidwa, who read out a message from H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO); and Mr. Larry Ekin, Chairman of the North American Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (NACC).

In his statement, Mr. Harb confirmed Canada's commitment of $55 million over five years to development projects in the light of the Declaration of Principles. He referred to NGOs as "one of the most essential means of securing peace". He said that NGOs had earned their "place at the table" and had "a very critical role to play that no amount of money or military might can replace".

The theme of the Symposium was "Palestine - Towards a just and lasting peace: focus on NGO support for cooperation and development".

Experts presented papers in four plenary sessions, as follows:

I. The Declaration of Principles: taking stock of the situation

Dr. M. Nasser Al-Kidwa, Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Mr. Mervyn Dymally, member of the United States House of Representatives (retired)

Mr. Aaron Back, B'Tselem, Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories

II. The Declaration of Principles: United Nations involvement and the North American NGO movement

Mr. Johan Nordenfelt, Director, General Assembly and Trusteeship Council Affairs Division of the United Nations Secretariat

Mr. Jawad Squili, Chairman of the Board, Centre d'études arabes pour le développement

Mr. Anis Al-Qaq, Director, Health Services Council, and Chairman of the Palestinian Theatre

Ms. Phyllis Bennis, journalist

Mr. Larry Ekin, Chairman of the North American Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine

III.

A. Strengthening civil and social structures

Mr. Eyad El Sarraj, Director, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme

Ms. Zahira Kamal, Coordinator for Women's Affairs Technical Committee

Mr. Norman Cook, Director of NGOs, Canadian Partnership Branch, Canadian International Development Agency

B. Development and the United Nations system

(i) Promoting Human Rights

Ms. Janice Abu-Shakrah, Director of the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre, Jerusalem

(ii) Promoting development

Ms. Zahira Kamal, Coordinator for Women's Affairs Technical Committee

Mr. Francis Dubois, Senior Programme Officer, United Nations Development Programme, New York

Mr. William Lee, Chief, UNRWA Liaison Office, New York

IV. Looking ahead: key issues

Ms. Janice Abu Shakrah, Director, Palestine Human Rights Information Centre, Jerusalem

Ms. Sarah Kaminer, planning consultant for neighbourhood organizations in West and East Jerusalem

Mr. Naseer Aruri, Professor of Political Science at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Mr. Marc Perron, Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Ministry of External Relations

The following topics were discussed by twenty experts in six workshops:

1. Economic development
2. Health and educational needs
3. Promoting coexistence (citizen-to-citizen diplomacy)
4. Defending human rights
5. Working with the media
6. Palestinian women's experience in development

At the closing of the Symposium, statements were made by H.E. Mr. Kéba Birane Cissé, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; Dr. M. Nasser Al-Kidwa, Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations; Mr. Larry Ekin, Chairman of NACC; and Father Ibrahim Ayad, President of the Palestine Committee for NGOs.

The Symposium participants elected, by secret ballot, a 12-member Coordinating Committee for 1994-1995. Those elected from the United States were: American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; Episcopal Church, USA; Methodist Federation for Social Action; Palestine Aid Society; Palestine Human Rights Information Center - International; Presbyterian Church; Union of Palestinian-American Women; Union of Palestinian Women's Association in North America. Those elected from Canada were: Canadian Auto Workers' Social Justice Fund; Canadian Council of Churches; Centre d'études arabes pour le développement; Near East Cultural and Educational Foundation of Canada.

III. ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT ON THE GAZA STRIP AND THE JERICHO AREA ISSUED AS UNITED NATIONS DOCUMENT

On 27 May 1994, the Permanent Representatives of the Russian Federation and the United States of America addressed a joint letter to the Secretary-General in their capacity as co-sponsors of the peace process launched at Madrid in October 1991 and witnesses to the signing at Cairo on 4 May 1994 of the Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area, including its annexes and maps and an exchange of letters between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people. They conveyed the document to the Secretary-General and requested its issuance as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council. Letters in this regard were also written to the Secretary-General on the same date by the Permanent Representative of Israel and the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations.

The document, together with all its annexes, was issued as document A/49/180-S/1994/727. A limited number of copies can be obtained from the Division for Palestinian Rights.

IV. SECRETARY-GENERAL WELCOMES WASHINGTON DECLARATION BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL

On 26 July 1994, the following statement was issued by the Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (see SG/SM/5379):

> "The Secretary-General warmly welcomes the signing of the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel. He applauds the statesmanship shown by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, which culminated in the historic signing ceremony at the White House. He is very encouraged by this new development and hopes this will accelerate the process of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

At the request of the Permanent Representatives of Israel, Jordan, the United States of America and the Russian Federation, made in a joint letter dated 5 August 1994, the Declaration was issued as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council (see A/49/300-S/1994/939).

V. SECRETARY-GENERAL ISSUES REPORTS ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REPERCUSSIONS OF THE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND ON ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 1 July 1994, the Secretary-General issued a note containing a report prepared by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/52, entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan". In that resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/212 of 21 December 1993, endorsed that request. The report describes Israeli settlement activities and their consequences (see A/49/169-E/1994/73).

On 19 July 1994, the Secretary-General issued a report in response to General Assembly resolution 48/213, entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people", in which the Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to ensure the coordinated work of the United Nations system for an adequate response to the needs of the Palestinian people and to mobilize financial, technical, economic and other assistance. In that resolution, the Assembly had also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the resolution. The report assesses the actual assistance received by the Palestinians and provides proposals for responding to needs that are still unmet (see A/49/263-E/1994/112).

VI. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ADOPTS THREE RESOLUTIONS RELEVANT TO THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

At its substantive session of 1994 held from 27 June to 29 July in New York, the Economic and Social Council adopted the following resolutions:

"1994/29. Assistance to the Palestinian people

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/213 of 21 December 1993,

"Welcoming the signing of the first implementation agreement of the Declaration of Principles on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, in Cairo on 4 May 1994, between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

"Gravely concerned about the difficult economic and employment conditions facing the Palestinian people through the Occupied Territory,

"Conscious of the urgent need for improvement in the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Territory and the living conditions of the Palestinian people,

"Aware that development is difficult under occupation and best promoted in circumstances of peace and stability,

"Noting, in the light of the recent developments, the great economic and social challenges facing the Palestinian people and their leadership,

"Conscious of the urgent necessity for international assistance to the Palestinian people, taking into account the Palestinian priorities,

"Noting the convening of the United Nations Seminar on Palestinian Trade and Investment Needs, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization from 20 to 22 June 1994,

"Welcoming the signing of the agreements between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Labour Organization,

"Stressing the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the process of building Palestinian institutions and in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people, including assistance in the fields of elections, police training and public administration,

"Noting the appointment by the Secretary-General of the Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories,

"Welcoming the results of the Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, and the establishment of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee and the work being done by the World Bank as secretariat thereof, as well as the establishment of the consultative group,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his rapid response and efforts regarding assistance to the Palestinian people;

"3. Expresses its appreciation also to the Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have provided and continue to provide assistance to the Palestinian people;

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[1] A/49/263-E/1994/112.

"4. Stresses the importance of the appointment of the Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories and the steps taken under the auspices of the Secretary-General to ensure the achievement of a coordinated mechanism for United Nations activities throughout the Occupied Territories;

"5. Urges Member States, international financial institutions of the United Nations system, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and regional and interregional organizations to extend, as rapidly and as generously as possible, economic and social assistance to the Palestinian people in order to assist in the development of the West Bank and Gaza and to do so in close cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization and through official Palestinian institutions;

"6. Calls upon relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to intensify their assistance in response to the urgent needs of the Palestinian people in accordance with the Palestinian priorities set forth by the Palestinian Authority with emphasis on national execution and capacity-building;

"7. Urges Member States to open their markets to exports from the West Bank and Gaza on the most favourable terms, consistent with appropriate trading rules;

"8. Calls upon the international donor community to expedite the delivery of pledged assistance to the Palestinian people to meet their urgent needs;

"9. Suggests the convening in 1995 of a United Nations-sponsored seminar on Palestinian administrative, managerial and financial needs and challenges in light of the new developments;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the present resolution, containing:

"(a) An assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people;

"(b) An assessment of the needs still unmet and specific proposals for responding effectively to them."

"1994/45. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/212 of 21 December 1993,

"Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of people under foreign occupation over their national resources,

"Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, and recalling Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

"Recalling Security Council resolution 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and other resolutions affirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[2] to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

"Recalling also Security Council resolution 904 (1994) of 18 March 1994, in which, among other things, the Council called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to take and implement measures, including, inter alia, confiscation of arms, with the aim of preventing illegal acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory,

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[2]United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

"Aware of the negative and grave economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan.

"Welcoming the ongoing Middle East peace process started at Madrid, in particular the signing of the first implementation agreement of the Declaration of Principles on the Gaza Strip and Jericho area, in Cairo on 4 May 1994, between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

"1. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General;[3]

"2. Reaffirms that Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, are illegal and an obstacle to economic and social development;

"3. Recognizes the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and on the Arab population of the Syrian Golan;

"4. Reaffirms the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the population of the Syrian Golan to their natural and all other economic resources, and regards any infringement thereof as illegal;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

"1994/44. Middle East peace process

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/58 of 14 December 1993,

"Recalling also the convening of the Peace Conference on the Middle East at Madrid on 30 October 1991, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, and the subsequent bilateral negotiations, as well as the meetings of the multilateral working groups, and noting with satisfaction the broad international support for the peace process,

"Noting the continuing positive participation of the United Nations as a full extraregional participant in the work of the multilateral working groups,

"Bearing in mind the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed by the Government of the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993,[4] and the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, signed by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, in Cairo on 4 May 1994,

"Also bearing in mind the Agreement between Israel and Jordan on the Common Agenda, signed in Washington, D.C., on 14 September 1993, and the Washington Declaration signed by the Governments of Jordan and Israel on 25 July 1994,

"1. Welcomes the peace process started at Madrid, and supports the subsequent bilateral negotiations;

"2. Stresses the importance of, and need for, achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

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[3] A/49/169-E/1994/73.

[4] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

"3. Expresses its full support for the achievements of the peace process thus far, in particular the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements signed by the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the subsequent Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, signed by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, and the Agreement between Israel and Jordan on the Common Agenda, and the Washington Declaration signed by the Governments of Jordan and Israel on 25 July 1994, which constitute important initial steps in achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and urges all parties to implement the agreements reached;

"4. Also stresses the need for achieving rapid progress on the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations within the peace process;

"5. Welcomes the results of the International Donors Conference to Support Middle East Peace, convened in Washington, D.C., on 1 October 1993, and the subsequent work of the World Bank consultative group, and urges Member States to provide economic, financial and technical assistance to the Palestinian people during the interim period;

"6. Calls upon all Member States also to extend economic, financial and technical assistance to parties in the region and to render support for the peace process;

"7. Considers that an active United Nations role in the Middle East peace process and in assisting in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles can make a positive contribution;

"8. Encourages regional development and cooperation in the areas where work has already begun within the framework of the Madrid Conference."

VII. MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION SIGNED BY THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION

At the 142nd meeting of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), held on 21 October 1993, the PLO leadership requested that UNESCO should play an active role in building up Palestinian educational and cultural institutions. On 25 October 1993, the twenty-seventh General Conference of UNESCO invited the Director-General of UNESCO to draw up, in consultation with the relevant Palestinian authorities, a comprehensive work plan to meet immediate needs of the Palestinian people within the framework of UNESCO's fields of competence.

In the implementation of that resolution, a Memorandum of Cooperation between UNESCO and the PLO was signed at Granada, Spain, on 9 December 1993, by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Federico Mayor. In accordance with the terms of the Memorandum, a Joint UNESCO/PLO Coordination Committee has been set up to plan and monitor the execution of the activities set out in the memorandum.

VIII. UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD ADOPTS DECISION ON PROPOSALS FOR PROGRAMME COOPERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

At the conclusion of its one-week session which ended on 29 April 1994, the Executive Board of UNICEF adopted a decision on UNICEF cooperation and programme reviews, including the funding of programmes affecting Palestinian women and children (see E/1994/34 (Part II)-E/ICEF/1994/13). The text of the decision is presented below:

"Decision 1994/R.2/6.

"Proposals for UNICEF cooperation and programme reviews

"The Executive Board

"1. Approves the following recommendations of the Executive Director for programme cooperation as summarized in document E/ICEF/1994/P/L.3 and Add.1:

"....."

"(e) $39,947,720 for general resources funding and $102,100,000 for supplementary funding for programme cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa, as follows:

Country	Period	General resource	Supplementary funds	Document E/ICEF/1994/
.....				
Palestinian women and children in:				
Lebanon	1995	350 000	350 000	P/L.23
Syrian Arab Republic	1995	200 000		P/L.23
West Bank and Gaza	1994-95	725 000	35 000 000	P/L.23

....."

The Executive Board also adopted decision 1994/R.2/7 on assistance to Palestinian children and women (see the May 1994 issue of the Bulletin, Vol. XVII).

IX. DECLARATION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION ON THE VISIT BY CHAIRMAN ARAFAT TO GAZA/JERICHO; STATEMENT ON THE MEETING BETWEEN KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN AND ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER RABIN

On 14 July 1994, the following statement was issued by Detlev Graf zu Rantzau (Germany) on behalf of the European Union (see A/49/230-S/1994/822):

"The European Union welcomes the first visit of the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat, to the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. This event is evident proof of the progress already achieved in the Middle East peace process and, in particular, relations between the Israeli and Palestinian sides. At the same time, the European Union welcomes the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in Jericho. The European Union hopes that this body and the Palestinian administrative structure put in place in the economic field will become operational in the near future and, thereby, partners for dialogue with the European Union in those areas identified in the agreement signed in Cairo on 4 May 1994, by Israel and the PLO, as well as partners for the European Union economic assistance programmes.

"The European Union encourages both sides and the other regional parties in the peace process to continue their search for solutions to outstanding issues in the context of the bilateral and multilateral tracks."

On 28 July 1994, the following statement was issued on behalf of the European Union (see A/49/285-S/1994/891):

"The European Union warmly welcomes the meeting of his Majesty King Hussein of Jordan and Prime Minister Rabin of Israel in Washington on 25 July 1994.

"This meeting, the prior talks between Jordanian and Israeli representatives which took place in the Middle East region itself, as well as the signing of the declaration in Washington, represent another important breakthrough in the peace process. The European Union pays tribute to the vision and courage of the Jordanian and Israeli leaders, which have made such direct talks and agreements possible.

"The European Union expresses the hope that, on the basis of the declaration signed in Washington, further negotiations between the two sides on the solution of outstanding questions can be brought to a successful completion in the near future and thus lead to an agreement which would be of paramount importance for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

X. EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HUMANITARIAN OFFICE PLEDGES CONTINUED ASSISTANCE TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

On 21 June 1994, the following press release was issued by the European Community Office of Press and Public Affairs:

"From January 1993 to the present, the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has supplied 15.1 million ecu in food, medical, logistical and infrastructure aid in favour of the Palestinian population in the Occupied Territories.

"The numerous projects financed by ECHO's contributions have been carried out in the field by non-governmental agencies (NGOs) and UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East).

"Most recently, the European Commission agreed to 2.4 million ecu in assistance for hospitals, clinics and other health-related establishments in Gaza and the West Bank. To implement the new aid, the following NGOs have been selected: OXFAM (UK), the Netherlands Red Cross, MAP (UK) and Pharmaciens sans Frontières (France).

"This aid is aimed not only to safeguard the Palestinian population's health but also to create local, health-related jobs, boosting the economy (and the new administration) during a critical phase in the transition of power."

XI. NEW ZEALAND CONTRIBUTES $NZ 300,000 TO UNRWA FOR WOMEN'S TRAINING CENTRE IN GAZA

On 23 May 1994, the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand issued a statement announcing that New Zealand is contributing $NZ 300,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to build a women's training centre in Gaza. The centre, which will be built in the Bureij refugee camp, would provide women with the skills to earn a living and to make a positive contribution to the development of the community.

In the statement, New Zealand Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said:

"This is a tangible expression of New Zealand's support for implementation of the recent agreements signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization on Palestinian interim self-government and for the wider Middle East peace process. We recognize the Palestinian people need the active support of the international community to meet pressing development needs. New Zealand is ready to do what it can to assist. It is essential that the progress being made at the political level, since the Declaration of Principles was signed last September, is underpinned by practical improvements to people's daily lives."

XII. UNITED NATIONS SPONSORS JOURNALISTS' ENCOUNTER AT ELSINORE, DENMARK, ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

From 15 to 17 June 1994, the United Nations Department of Public Information held a journalists' encounter at Elsinore, which was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark. The theme of the encounter was "Prerequisites to Peace in the Middle East".

The Elsinore Encounter was the fourth in a series launched three years ago by the Department of Public Information to promote dialogue between the two sides in the Middle East conflict. The Department of Public Information encounter programme on the question of Palestine was mandated by General Assembly resolution 48/158 C of 20 December 1993. The Encounter reviewed the developments in the peace process since the signing, at Washington, D.C. last September, of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, including outstanding issues not covered by the Declaration. These were: Israeli settlements, Jerusalem, the return of Palestinian refugees, future boundaries and the status of the Palestinian occupied territory.

The meeting brought together a panel of prominent Arabs, Israelis and Middle East experts to exchange views with a group of senior international media representatives on the issues facing the Palestinian and Israeli peoples in their attempts to secure lasting peace in the region. Some 130 people, including 26 members of the diplomatic corps, attended the meeting.

The panelists were: Samir Abdallah, Chief of the Department of Economic Policies and Project Selection, Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction; Haider Abdel Shafi, President of the Red Crescent Society in Gaza; M. Nasser Al-Kidwa, Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations; Abdallah Bouhabib, Adviser to the World Bank's Vice-President for the Middle East and North Africa Region; and Helle Degn, Denmark's Minister of Cooperation and Development.

Other panelists were: Mustafa B. Hamarneh, Director, Centre for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan, Amman; Mark Heller, Senior Research Associate, Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv; Yossi Katz, Member of the Israeli Knesset; Richard Murphy, Senior Fellow of New York City's Middle East Council on Foreign Relations; Ron Pundik, Senior Fellow, Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Tel Aviv; William Quandt, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.; Ghassan Salamé, Senior Fellow, Centre National de Recherches Scientifiques, Paris (Lebanon); Emmanuel Sharon, Director of the Hapoalim Bank, Tel Aviv; Mohammad Shiyyab, Director of International Studies, Royal Scientific Society, Amman; and Nikolai Tikhomirov, Department Head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Directorate for the Middle East and North Africa.

In her keynote address on 16 June, Helle Degn, Minister of Cooperation and Development of Denmark, called on donors to "move away from pledges and implement specific, tangible projects to generate development for the Palestinian people". She advocated "flexibility" in recognition of the special requirements of the situation.

In his concluding remarks, Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, who acted as moderator of the meeting, said that peace was a partnership which required trust and was based on security. "The security which I wish to underscore here describes a more comprehensive state of the human condition. The Secretary-General has affirmed that this means, at the very least, freedom from hunger, torture, fear and disease" (see PI/852 and PI/856).

XIII. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION ISSUES
NEW PUBLICATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

The Department of Public Information issued a publication entitled "Promoting a Culture for Peace in the Middle East". The publication, which was the fourth in the Department's Israeli-Palestinian dialogue series, reflects the proceedings of the International Encounter for European Journalists on the Question of Palestine organized by the Department of Public Information from 9 to 11 June 1993 in London (see GA/PAL/661).

XIV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

A. Activities of the Geneva Conference Working Group

The Division for Palestinian Rights received information about a round of meetings in the occupied Palestinian territories organized by the NGO coordinating committees in the territories, to discuss the issues now being faced by the Palestinian people and the NGOs who serve them and to prepare the groundwork for the International NGO Meeting to be held at Geneva under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in late August 1994. A brief summary of those meetings follows:

1. Regional NGO meetings summary report:

The Geneva Conference Working Group (GCWG) sponsored four informal meetings of NGOs in the occupied Palestinian territories. They were held at Gaza on 10 May; Nablus on 17 May; Hebron on 26 May; and Jerusalem on 31 May 1994.

The objective of the meetings was to air views regarding the role of NGOs in the occupied Palestinian territories in the coming period, as well as issues of general concern to NGOs working in the area. The meetings were also aimed at preparing grass-roots input for the upcoming national and international conferences dealing with developmental, humanitarian and political issues of importance to Palestinian and international NGOs. A total of 430 institutions and 743 persons participated in these meetings.

2. The role of NGOs in the transition to Palestinian statehood:

From 17 to 19 June 1994, GCWG sponsored a meeting entitled "The role of NGOs in the transition to Palestinian statehood" at East Jerusalem. There were four panel discussions on the following topics:

(a) NGOs and development strategies;

(b) NGOs and Palestinian civil society;

(c) NGOs and Jerusalem;

(d) NGOs, relationships to and among: Palestinian National Authority, Palestinian NGOs, International NGOs, Multilateral organizations and founders.

Information about GCWG's work can be obtained directly from GCWG, c/o SAAR, Telephone/Fax: (972-2) 819-553.

B. Information received from NGOs

1. Middle East International, a biweekly publication, is available from P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States. Issue No. 477 of 10 June 1994 includes articles on Israel and Syria, on Israeli settlements and on Palestinians as victims of apartheid. Issue No. 478 of June 24 includes articles on the Palestinian prisoners' plight, on the PLO cash crisis, on Israeli Arabs' view of the peace process, on United States foreign policy, on European Union aid, on Israeli settlements and on Israeli Palestinians. Issue No. 480 of 22 July includes articles on Jordan's peace gestures, on Syria's strategy for peace, on West Bank self-rule, on Israel's commission of inquiry and on World Bank assistance. All issues also contain articles on other countries in the Middle East.

2. The Other Front, a weekly bulletin on developments in Israeli society, is available from P.O. Box 19543, Jerusalem. Issue No. 276 of 8 June includes articles on the bombing in Lebanon, on the Israeli military and on a student demonstration at Tel Aviv University. Issue No. 277 of 15 June includes articles on the question of Jerusalem, on the peace movement, on the settlers and on Palestinians inside Israel. Issue No. 278 of 22 June 1994 contains articles on settlements and on immigration. Issue No. 280 of 6 July contains articles on the peace movement, on the settlements and on Arafat's visit to Gaza. Issue No. 281 of 13 July includes articles on immigrant students and on the 'Trans-Israel' Highway.

3. Washington Report on Middle East Affairs is available from American Educational Trust, P.O. Box 53062, Washington, D.C. 20009 (Fax (202) 232-6754 or 265-4574). The July-August issue, Vol. XIII, includes articles on the implementation of the Peace Accords (five views), on George Ball's Mid-East views, on the question of Jerusalem, on United States aid and on the United Nations and the Middle East, as well as stories from other Middle Eastern countries.

4. Nord-Sud XXI: Droits de l'Homme - Liberté is a book available from Nord-Sud XXI, 17 Rue Ferdinand-Hodler, CH-1207, Geneva (Fax 736 91 93). The book contains an article by Naseer H. Aruri entitled "False promises and illusive opportunities: the Madrid Peace Process".

5. MECC News Report, which is published by the Communication Department of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC), is available from P.O. Box 4259, Limassol, Cyprus, (Fax (357-5) 324 496). The May/June 1994 issue contains articles on MECC's assistance to Palestinian refugees, a joint message of Episcopal leaders on Peace in the Holy Land and the Lutheran appeal to the Israeli Government concerning access to Jerusalem for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

6. The B'Tselem Human Rights Report, which is published by B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, is available from 43 Emek Refaim Street, 2nd Floor, Jerusalem 93141 (Fax (02) 610756). The Spring issue contains articles on human rights in the occupied territories, on enforcement of the law and settler violence, on the Israel-PLO Accord, on collective punishment after the Hebron massacre, on collaborators in the occupied territories, on the use of torture, on deaths at checkpoints and along roads, on Kach and Kachane Chai and on summary execution in the Jabalya refugee camp. Other reports published by B'Tselem include:

(a) Firing at Vehicles by the Security Forces in the Occupied Territories (February 1994);

(b) Lethal Gunfire and Collective Punishment in the Wake of the Massacre at the Tomb of the Patriarchs (February 1994);

(c) Summary Execution: Jabalya Refugee Camp (March 1994).

7. News From Within, a newsletter of the Alternative Information Centre, is available from P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem (Fax (972 2) 253151). The June 1994 issue features articles on Israeli policy towards Palestinian prisoners, on Meron Benvenisti and the Oslo Plan, on Palestinian women and on the Palestinian police in Jericho, comments on Rabin's and Arafat's speeches at the signing of the Cairo Agreement and comments on the draft of the Palestinian constitution.

8. Breaking the Siege, a newsletter of The Middle East Justice Network, is available from P.O. Box 495, Boston, Massachusetts 02112, United States of America (Fax (617) 542-4947). The June-July 1994 issue includes articles on United States aid to Israel and the Palestinians, on United States Jerusalem policy, on the Congress of the United States and the PLO and on economic relations between Israel and the Palestinians, as well as an assessment of the Cairo Agreement.

9. Newsletter, a publication issued by the Capital District Committee for Palestinian Rights, is a project of the Social Justice Center of Albany, Inc. and is available from 33 Central Avenue, Albany, New York 12210. The Spring/Summer 1994 issue contains articles on Palestine after the Declaration of Principles, on continued Israeli land confiscation, on settler violence and on the United States media and Palestine.

10. Amnesty International Report 1994 is available from Amnesty International, 322 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10001, Telephone (212) 807-8400. In a section entitled "Israel and the Occupied Territories", Amnesty International reports on arrests and detentions of Palestinians, on Palestinian and Israeli prisoners of conscience, including conscientious objectors to military service, on torture and ill-treatment during interrogations, on deaths in custody through possible medical negligence, on shooting deaths, on extrajudicial executions and on other human rights abuses.

11. Al-Haq, an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, published the following press releases for the month of June, which are available from P.O. Box 1413, Ramallah, West Bank, (Fax (972-2) 955194):

> "Al-Haq calls for the disbanding of Israeli special units carrying out summary executions in the Israeli-occupied territories";
>
> "Alert - Sha'Wan Rateb Jabarin Re-arrested".

12. Press releases of the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC) of the Arab Studies Society are available from: PHRIC International, 4201 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20008 (Fax (202) 686-5140). The following press releases have been issued for the month of June:

> "Two Palestinians summarily executed by undercover units in Jerusalem";
>
> "Statistics on Israeli house demolition and planning policy in East Jerusalem";
>
> "Homelessness in Jerusalem".

13. The Association of Palestinian Human Rights in the Diaspora (APHRD) issued a "News Report" dated 2 July 1994. The report, which is available from P.O. Box 520, Valletta, Malta (Fax 00356 - 371978), includes articles on the plight of Palestinians living in different Middle Eastern countries and in Europe.

14. Collaborators in Occupied Territories: Human Rights Abuses and Violations, which is a book published by B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, is available from 43 Emek Refaim St., 2nd Floor, Jerusalem 93141 (Fax 02 610756). The book deals with the emergence of the phenomenon of collaboration in the territories since 1967 and the distinctive circumstances during the intifadah which gave rise to the attacks against suspected collaborators, explains the stand of B'Tselem, as a human rights organization, with regard to torture and killing of suspected collaborators, presents the stands of the PLO and Hamas on the question of collaboration and examines the policy of the Israeli authorities towards Palestinians who attack suspected collaborators.

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UNITED NATIONS

DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

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I. UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL NGO MEETING AND EUROPEAN REGIONAL NGO SYMPOSIUM ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE HELD AT GENEVA FROM 29 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER 1994

The United Nations International NGO Meeting and European NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine was held as a combined event at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 29 August to 1 September 1994, under the auspices of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in accordance with its mandate under General Assembly resolutions 48/158/A and B of 20 December 1993. In those resolutions, the Assembly requested the Committee to continue to extend its cooperation to non-governmental organizations (NGOs); and mandated the organization of regional symposiums and an annual international meeting for NGOs on the question of Palestine.

The Committee was represented by a delegation comprising H.E. Mr. Kéba Birane Cissé (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee and Head of Delegation; H.E. Mr. Ravan Farhadi (Afghanistan), Vice-Chairman of the Committee; H.E. Mr. Joseph Cassar, Rapporteur of the Committee (Malta); and Dr. M. Nasser Al-Kidwa (Palestine).

The Meeting was attended by 27 panelists and workshop leaders, representatives of 100 NGOs, 30 Governments, 8 United Nations agencies and bodies, 4 intergovernmental and other organizations, 5 NGO coordinating committees and a delegation from Palestine.

Mr. Ibrahima Fall, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, read out a message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the opening session. H.E. Mr. Kéba Birane Cissé, Chairman of the Committee, made a statement, and a message from H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, was read out by his senior adviser on international organizations, Mr. Zehdi L. Terzi. Statements were also made by Mr. Stephen Day, Chairman of the European Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine, and Mr. Don Betz, Chairman of the International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine.

H.E. Mr. Kéba Birane Cissé (Senegal) chaired the opening and closing sessions of the Meeting. The remainder of the meeting was conducted under the overall co-chairmanship of Messrs. Don Betz and Stephen Day.

The programme for the Meeting began with a plenary session on the theme "Building on the Declaration of Principles towards the independent Palestinian State".

The Meeting was organized in the form of three workshops and six panels. In addition, there were audiovisual presentations. The three workshops and six panel discussions, moderated by experts, were conducted as follows:

A. Workshops:

1. Health

   Dr. Ruchama Marton, Chairman, Association of Israeli-Palestinian Physicians for Human Rights

   Dr. Umaiyeh Khammash, Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees

2. Women

   Mrs. Zahira Kamal, Palestine Federation of Women's Action Committees

3. Education

   Mr. Khader Musleh, National Foundation for Investment and Development and Professor of Psychology, Bethlehem University

B. Panel I:

"Implementation of the Declaration of Principles"

Mr. Zehdi L. Terzi, Senior Adviser on International Organizations to H.E. Mr. Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization

Mr. Stephen Day, Chairman of the European Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine

Mr. Romesh Chandra, Honorary President, World Peace Council

Panel II:

"Elements of the final settlement"

Jerusalem:

Mr. Ibrahim Shaaban, Director, Palestine Housing Council

Refugees:

Mr. Muhammad Hallaj, Executive Director, Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine

Settlements:

Mr. Khader Shkirat, Director, Land and Water Establishment, West Bank

Panel III:

(a) "The Palestinian people's reality today"

(i) In the occupied Palestinian territory

Mrs. Maha Shawa, economist, Head of the International Cooperation Division, Health Department, Palestinian Authority

(ii) In the neighbouring countries

Mr. Marai Abdelrahman, Secretary-General, Palestine Committee for NGOs

(iii) In the Diaspora

Mr. Victor Kashkoush, Director-General, Welfare Association

(b) (i) Israeli society and the peaceful settlement with the Palestinian people

Mr. Peretz Kidron, free-lance journalist and writer

(ii) Role of the Israeli peace forces in support of the Palestinian people

Mr. Dan Leon, Managing Editor, Palestine-Israel Journal

(iii) Arab societies in the Middle East and the Declaration of Principles

Mr. Nouri Abdul Razzak, Secretary-General, Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO)

Panel IV:

(a) "Social and economic development of Palestine"

Mr. Samir Houlaileh, Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR)

Mr. Ahmed Saad, economist, writer, researcher and Manager of the Emil Tuma Institute (Haifa)

(b) "The role of NGOs in the social and economic development of Palestine"

Mr. Stephen Day, Executive Director, Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU)

Mrs. Maria Gazi, Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity

Dr. Anis Al-Qaq, Health Services Council, West Bank

Mr. Bruce Stanley, Representative, Association for International Development Agencies

Panel V:

"The role of NGOs in supporting the work of the United Nations"

Dr. Anis Al-Qaq, Health Services Council, West Bank

Mr. Larry Ekin, Chairman, North American Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine

Mrs. Elaine Hesse Steel, Director, World Young Women's Christian Association (Geneva)

Mrs. Maria Gazi, Greek Committee for International Democratic Solidarity

Mr. Don Betz, Chairman, International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (ICCP)

Panel VI:

"Campaigning for Palestinian national and human rights"

How to campaign:

Mrs. Janice Abu Shakrah, Director, Palestine Human Rights Information Center, Jerusalem

Mr. Larry Ekin, Chairman, North American Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine

Mr. Ilan Halevi, Special Advisor to the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization

At the closing session of the Meeting, statements were made by H.E. Mr. Kéba Birane Cissé, Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People; Mr. Stephen Day, Chairman of the European Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine; Mr. Don Betz, Chairman of the International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine; and the Reverend Ibrahim Ayad, President of the Palestine Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine.

The Meeting adopted a communiqué, which is reproduced below. The final report of the Meeting will be issued as a publication of the Division for Palestinian Rights.

"Communiqué

"We, the non-governmental organizations gathered at the United Nations International NGO Meeting and European NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine - 29 August to 1 September 1994 - are aware that we have convened at a crucial moment in the history of the Palestinian people.

"The Declaration of Principles was a turning point opening a new chapter in Middle East relations and an avenue to a just and lasting peace. We have witnessed the Madrid Conference, the mutual recognition of the two parties, the Declaration of Principles, the Cairo Agreement of 4 May and the subsequent transfers of limited areas of power and responsibility.

"NGOs' unequivocal support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of the independent Palestinian State in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions remains at the centre of the NGO commitment. Further, we consider that the United Nations continues to have a role in reaching a negotiated settlement on the question of Palestine and is the most appropriate body that can guarantee a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

"The information presented at this meeting and the discussion that followed confirmed that this peace process is in its initial stages. The implementation of the initial stages of Palestinian Interim Self-government is an important achievement but must not be permitted to obscure the reality that, during the transitional period, Israel, as the occupying Power, remains obligated to observe the Geneva Conventions until such time as the Palestinian people achieves full sovereignty.

"Although resolution of the questions related to Jerusalem, Israeli settlements and the right of return have been deferred to the permanent-status negotiations, their importance demands a clear and constant affirmation from the NGO movement. Of immediate and major concern to us is the continued Israeli imprisonment of Palestinian political prisoners and detainees. We call for their unconditional release in compliance with the Cairo Agreement of 4 May 1994.

"We request that countries hosting Palestinian refugees preserve their civil, social and political rights until they are allowed to return to their homes.

"We express our appreciation for the series of regional meetings held in the occupied Palestinian territories in preparation of our meeting, organized by the Geneva Conference Working Group and attended by local and international NGOs in Palestine. These meetings are an indication of the seriousness and importance that NGOs accord to their collective work in cooperation with the

United Nations. We welcome the reports from these meetings and anticipate that these efforts will continue. We attach their recommendations[1] and refer them to the United Nations Committee and the NGO network for their support and implementation.

"Under occupation, local and international NGOs have played crucial roles in the development of the Palestinian economy and society. We anticipate that NGOs will continue to play these roles and that support should be provided based upon their competence and quality of service. We will seek ways to increase the involvement of NGOs, including those involved in economic and social development and in humanitarian service. We look forward to and encourage the cooperation between NGOs and the Palestine National Authority.

"We warmly thank the Committee for convening this international meeting and the work done by the Division and the conference staff in facilitating our sessions. We genuinely appreciate the messages of support from Chairman Yasser Arafat and Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, as presented by their representatives. We further appreciate the statements supporting the NGO movement and activities made by Ambassador Kéba Cissé and Ambassador Nasser Al-Kidwa. We reaffirm our interest in continuing and expanding NGO cooperation with the United Nations Committee on the Exercise on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights. We request the Committee's and the Division's assistance in accessing other United Nations bodies and agencies and in identifying United Nations programmes and resources that can help the NGOs fulfil their objectives.

"We request the Chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to convey this Communiqué to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth Session as part of the Committee's report."

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[1] *The text of the recommendations is reproduced in section V below.*

II. COMMITTEE ON ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION EXAMINES SITUATION OF PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

At its forty-fifth session held at Geneva from 1 to 19 August 1994, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination examined issues relating to the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory and information received from Israel.

On 18 August 1994, the Committee adopted the following (CERD/C/45/Misc.14/Rev. 1):

"CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

"Israel

"1. At its 1023rd meeting (forty-fourth session), held on 7 March 1994, the Committee expressed its shock at the appalling massacre committed against Palestinian worshippers in the Abraham Mosque at Hebron on 25 February 1994. In accordance with article 9, paragraph 1 (b) of the Convention and with reference, in particular, to article 5 (b) of the Convention, the Committee requested the Government of Israel to submit an urgent report, no later than 30 June 1994, on measures taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied Palestinian territory and to bring to an end the illegal action of Israeli

settlers and to disarm them. At its 1056th and 1057th meetings, held on 10 and 11 August 1994, the Committee considered the information submitted by the State party and adopted[2] these concluding observations.

"2. The Committee reaffirms its position of principle that, since Israel is a State party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, it is competent to examine the manner in which Israel is fulfilling the obligations under the Convention with respect to everyone falling under Israel's jurisdiction, which includes all persons living in the territories occupied by Israel.

"3. The Committee also affirms its competence to request in appropriate cases, in particular in matters of urgent concern and in the context of its preventive approach, special information in accordance with article 9, paragraph 1 (b) of the Convention.

"4. While the Committee acknowledges the information it has received from Israel through the Secretary-General, the Committee regrets that Israel has not submitted the urgent report the Committee requested in its decision 1 (44) of 7 March 1994.

"5. The Committee reaffirms that all persons, without distinction as to race, ethnic or national origin, are entitled to the right to security of person and protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, whether inflicted by government officials or by any individual, group or institution. Consequently, Israel is obliged to fully protect the life and security of the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territories.

"6. The Committee regards the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories not only as illegal under international law but also as obstacles to peace and to the enjoyment of human rights by the whole population in the region, without distinction as to national or ethnic origin, in accordance with the Convention.

"7. The Committee welcomes that Israel, after the massacre at Hebron, has outlawed as terrorist organizations the extremist Jewish groups "Kach" and "Kahane Chai" and that Israel will take similar action against other terrorist groups and movements.

"8. The Committee requests that just and adequate reparation be granted to the families of the fallen and injured victims of the Hebron massacre and of other similar violent actions.

"9. The Committee fully endorses the peace process currently under way between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and considers respect for the principles and obligations of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination an essential ingredient of the peace process.

"10. In the light of paragraph 4 above, the Committee requests the Government of Israel to expedite its seventh and eighth periodic reports, due on 2 February 1992 and 1994 respectively, and to include in them a response to these observations."

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[2] *At its 1067th meeting, held on 18 August 1994.*

III. SUBCOMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which is the main subsidiary body of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, held its forty-sixth session at Geneva

from 1 to 26 August 1994. During that session, the Subcommission adopted the following resolution on the situation in the Middle East:

"1994/13. Situation in the Middle East

"The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

"Noting General Assembly resolution 48/58 of 14 December 1993, Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/4 of 18 February 1994 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/44 of 29 July 1994,

"Recalling the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East at Madrid on 30 October 1991, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, and the subsequent bilateral negotiations, as well as the meetings of the multilateral working groups,

"Noting with satisfaction the broad international support for the peace process and its contribution to the implementation and furtherance of human rights in the area,

"Welcoming the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, signed by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington, D.C., on 13 September 1993, and the subsequent agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area, signed by the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people, at Cairo on 4 May 1994,

"1. Reaffirms that the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East is essential for the implementation and furtherance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the area;

"2. Welcomes the peace process begun at Madrid and warmly supports the subsequent bilateral negotiations through which it has been continued;

"3. Endorses the achievements of the peace process to date, which constitute important initial steps in achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and urges all parties to implement the agreements which have been reached;

"4. Emphasizes the importance of making progress, as a matter of urgency, on the other tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations within the peace process;

"5. Supports the request by the Economic and Social Council that all States Members of the United Nations render support for the peace process and extend economic, financial and technical assistance to parties in the region, taking into account, in particular, the needs of the Palestinian people during the interim period;

"6. Expresses its full support for the active role which the United Nations is playing in the peace process, and in particular for its assistance in implementing the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government signed by the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which constitutes a positive contribution to the protection of human rights in the Middle East."

IV. ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND ON THE MIDDLE EAST

At its sixtieth ordinary session held at Tunis from 6 to 11 June 1994, the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), adopted the following resolutions:

CM/Res. 1523 (LX)

"Resolution on the Palestinian Question

"The Council of Ministers of the Organization of the African Unity, meeting in its Sixtieth Ordinary Session, in Tunis, Tunisia, from 6 to 11 June, 1994,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the Question as contained in document CM/1835 (LX),

"Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted by previous sessions of the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government on the question of Palestine,

"Reaffirming the legitimacy of the struggle being waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole legitimate representative, to recover their occupied territories and exercise their inalienable national rights, including the right to return to their homeland, to self-determination and to an independent State with Jerusalem as its capital,

"Reaffirming that the attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the conflict in the Middle East and the Palestinian question which are the root causes of the problem, would greatly contribute to the consolidation of international peace and security,

"Welcoming the Declaration of Principles on the arrangements pertaining to Israeli withdrawal and formation of a National Palestinian Authority, as well as the Interim Palestinian Autonomous Government, which was signed in both Washington and Cairo by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and is now at the initial stage of its implementation,

"1. Reaffirms that the Palestinian Question is at the core of the Middle East conflict and that a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East calls for:

"(a) withdrawal of Israel from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to return, to self-determination and to establish their independent Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

"(b) cessation of all acts of violence against the Palestinian people and the release of all prisoners and detainees, in accordance with the agreement between Israel and the PLO and the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949;

"(c) the necessity to consider Jerusalem as an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territory and to consider its annexation by Israel as illegal, null and void;

"(d) the cessation of the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem;

"2. Reaffirms the need to solve the problem of Palestinian refugees based on the principles of human rights and in accordance with the provisions of the relevant United Nations resolutions, particularly General Assembly resolution 194 and Security Council resolution 237;

"3. Expresses its appreciation of the efforts exerted by the Palestine Liberation Organization, Israel and all the other parties in the bilateral and multilateral talks and encourage them to persevere in their efforts to reach a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian question;

"4. Expresses its support and endorsement of the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington, on 13 September 1993, by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and the agreement signed by them in Cairo, on 4 May 1994, regarding Israeli withdrawal and arrangements for the National

Palestinian Authority and the establishment of an interim autonomous government, as a first step towards the implementation of the principle of Land for Peace, which should be speedily followed by similar measures through Palestinian and other Arab channels;

"5. Encourages Israel and the PLO to continue the peace process and calls on Israel to take prompt measures to implement the agreements it concluded with the Palestine Liberation Organization within the time-frame included in the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington and the Agreement signed in Cairo on 4 May 1994;

"6. Welcomes the formation of the National Palestinian Authority and the interim Palestinian government and calls upon all States and international organizations to help the Palestinian people set up their infrastructure and develop their own economy;

"7. Requests the OAU Secretary-General to monitor developments regarding the question of Palestine and report thereon to the next session of the OAU Council of Ministers."

CM/Res.1522 (LX)

"Resolution on the Middle East

"The Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, meeting in its Sixtieth Ordinary Session, in Tunis, Tunisia, from 6 to 11 June, 1994,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the situation in the Middle East (CM/1834 (LX)),

"Guided by the principles and objectives of the Charters of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity and by the common determination of the African and Arab peoples to pool their resources in order to safeguard their sovereignty and recover their legitimate basic rights,

"Bearing in mind all the successive resolutions on the situation in the Middle East adopted by the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government and the Council of Ministers,

"Recalling that the Palestinian question is at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East,

"1. Extends its full support to the Palestinian people and the Arab countries in their endeavour to put an end to the Israeli occupation and to the establishment of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East;

"2. Reaffirms that the issues of Jerusalem and Palestine are at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and that a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East cannot be established unless Israel withdraws from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the Syrian Golan and South Lebanon, and the Palestinian people can exercise their inalienable national rights;

"3. Notes with satisfaction the ongoing positive developments in the Middle East and expresses its full support to the efforts made to bring about a comprehensive and just solution to the question of Palestine and to the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with international resolutions, in particular Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 425 on the basis of the principle "land for peace", the exercise by the Palestinian people of their national and political rights, the solution of the problem of Palestinian refugees in compliance with United Nations resolutions, in particular General Assembly Resolution 194 and Security Council Resolution 237;

"4. Calls upon all States, international organizations and investment institutions to provide the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction with economic and financial assistance, so that it may exploit and develop the resources of the Palestinian territories and rehabilitate Palestinian national institutions, as well as

the infrastructure of the Palestinian national economy damaged by Israeli occupation;

"5. Calls upon the United Nations and its specialized institutions to exert further efforts in the field of economic development in the occupied Palestinian territories;

"6. Urges the implementation of international resolutions on the violations by Israel of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions and of international instruments, including the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, with a view to avoiding double standards in the implementation of international resolutions;

"7. Strongly urges the United Nations and the international community to ensure full compliance of Israel with the resolutions of the United Nations and those of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regarding the application of its nuclear installation for peaceful purposes, with a view to avoiding double standards in the implementation of international resolutions on the danger of nuclear proliferation;

"8. Endorses once again the proposal made by His Excellency Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Republic of Egypt, to proclaim the Middle East a region free from weapons of mass destruction;

"9. Invites the OAU Secretary-General to monitor the situation in the Middle East and report thereon to the following session of the Council of Ministers."

V. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

A. Activities of the Geneva Conference Working Group

The Geneva Conference Working Group held four meetings in the occupied Palestinian territory (Gaza, Nablus, Hebron and Jerusalem) from 10 May 1994 to 19 June 1994 (see June/July Bulletin, Vol. XVII, Bulletin No. 6). On 17 June 1994, a seminar entitled "The role of the NGOs in the transition to Palestinian statehood" was held at the National Palace Hotel in East Jerusalem. The following issues and recommendations were discussed and presented at the plenary meeting of that seminar for amendments. These recommendations were presented, in a paper, to the United Nations International NGO Meeting and European Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, which was held at Geneva from 29 August to 1 September 1994 (see section I above).

"Recommendations:

"Section I:

"1. The participants in the different workshops agreed on the importance of the independence of local NGOs and the continuance of their work during the current period and in the future, with an emphasis on the role of the NGOs in the different aspects of the Palestinian experience. Palestinian NGOs have a long and valuable history - through the various services they provide and foci they have - which should be utilized and drawn upon now.

"2. Local NGOs should enter into a working/coordinating relationship with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) based on a national program which should be agreed upon by all NGOs in a democratic non-factional fashion.

"3. The establishment and creation of NGOs is a legitimate right of the people and is a basis for civil society. Community participation in order to reach and decide the national policies and implement developmental projects should also be guaranteed.

"4. The participants agreed that the struggle against the Israeli occupation should continue and should be on the agenda of non-governmental organizations until the achievement of an Independent

Palestinian State with Occupied Jerusalem as its capital.

"5. NGOs should empower socially underprivileged groups - including women, children, the disabled, the poor, rural residents/those without services - protect the rights of these groups and expand their activities with these groups.

"6. One of the roles of the NGOs is to formulate lobbying bodies to monitor the work of the PNA.

"7. Another role of NGOs is a complementary one: to fill the gaps and provide services where the PNA is unable to act or to provide services.

"8. Participants highlighted the role of NGOs in educating and raising the consciousness of the grass-roots and communities in such issues as democracy, social justice, development, as well as national political issues.

"9. NGOs should determine their developmental priorities, and their activities should be directed towards these priorities, so that the loss of resources and efforts can be eliminated. These priorities should not be dependent on the mood or priorities of foreigners (foreign agencies) or funding agencies. Also, participants raised the importance of creating a clear vision and mechanism for cooperation between INGOs and LNGOs based on equal footing/partnership.

"10. Local NGOs seek relationships of funding and support free from discrimination based on political, ideological and religious grounds.

"11. While some people felt that the duplication of efforts (if based on professional standards) could play a stimulating role in terms of creation and motivation of organizations, other participants considered duplication of efforts as a loss of resources and efforts.

"12. There was a lot of discussion about the importance of creating legislation that regulates the relations and work of NGOs. This legislation should be developed on the condition that these rules should come as a result of ongoing discussion amongst NGOs, should reflect the Palestinian experience, and therefore be undertaken in a democratic spirit.

"13. NGOs should adopt or reinforce the democratic process within their internal structures and should support the individual freedom of each person to express their views and to participate in the context of these organizations with full rights.

"14. The need for a more systematic mechanism for community accountability and transparency of NGOs as a condition for commitment towards the community which they serve was highlighted.

"15. Participants agreed that coordination is a weak point between local NGOs which has resulted in weakening their projects and efforts. Several points were suggested:

(a) The exchange of information between sectors and within sectors;

(b) To formulate active coordinating committees based on sectoral, professional and geographic levels;

(c) Different views were expressed - one which called for a General Union of NGOs, and the other, which viewed this form of coordination as centralized, without a local context, and as one which contradicts the major principles and philosophies of NGOs. Persons holding the second viewpoint suggested having horizontal networks which could cooperate through specific projects and in specific areas.

"16. The participants encouraged local NGOs to follow the principle of self-reliance in their approach and to look for internal resources, particularly concerning finances, and to develop/encourage other procedures, such as voluntarism.

"17. Participants recommended that special attention be given to youth organizations and organizations dealing with children.

"18. The importance of preparing a comprehensive developmental plan where priorities are stated in a careful manner was stressed. Organizations should align their strategies in compliance with these priorities and demands. These plans should be discussed and agreed upon by Local NGOs on the basis of wide organizational participation.

"19. The importance of human resources was highlighted concerning every sector; the level of people's abilities and skills should be upgraded and supported on managerial and professional levels. Such activity will ultimately improve the level of NGOs' efficacy.

"20. In different workshops, participants confirmed the importance of adopting human rights, women's rights, and civil rights issues in their entirety and in all their activities; participants reconfirmed the importance of protecting children's rights in welfare and in supporting/fulfilling children's needs.

"21. NGOs consider the occupying authority to be responsible for the harm that has been caused to the Palestinian people and their property.

"22. Participants urge NGOs to give special attention to the social problems effecting the population - especially drug use and addiction.

"Section II:

"Occupied Jerusalem:

"1. The participants emphasized the risk of postponing the issues of Occupied Jerusalem and Israeli settlements and recommended that these issues continue to be at the top of the Palestinian priority list - this is even more important since Occupied Jerusalem is considered the capital of the independent Palestinian State. Participants suggested two points:

"(a) Sending a telegram to the Palestinian leadership, or the future PNA, stressing that the postponement of the issue of Occupied Jerusalem is a historical mistake and emphasizing the importance of placing this issue at the top of the national priority agenda;

"(b) Requesting that the Palestinian leadership reveal all the documents related to Occupied Jerusalem and to make public the correspondence concerning the future of Occupied Jerusalem.

"2. It is recommended that all NGOs (local and international) use the term "Occupied Jerusalem" instead of "Jerusalem".

"3. Foreign organizations working in the OPTs should be asked to present a statement concerning their position and view on Occupied Jerusalem.

"4. A centre to follow up on legal and technical issues should be established to carry out the following:

"(a) To acquire building and renovation permits for structures in Occupied Jerusalem;

"(b) To protect Palestinian areas that are threatened or are at risk of being "Judaized";

"(c) To protect the real estate of the absentees;

"(d) To reveal all the forged transactions relating to real estate and to follow up on this issue legally;

"(e) To demand the return of all real estate and structures confiscated by the Israeli authorities;

"(f) To investigate the feasibility of making legal cases in front of international bodies against Israeli measures taken against Occupied Jerusalem (based on United Nations resolutions which state the

illegitimacy of Israeli "legal" structures in Jerusalem).

"5. Participants called for the cooperation of LNGOs and INGOs in establishing a lobby to focus on issues related to Occupied Jerusalem, which would include the following activities:

"(a) To highlight the issue of Occupied Jerusalem at the official Palestinian and International levels, as well as with international and Israeli peace and justice activists;

"(b) Intensifying the information and consciousness-raising campaigns among people in the Palestinian diaspora, the Arab community particularly, and amongst friends in foreign countries in order to recruit material resources and moral forces in support of the Arab character of Occupied Jerusalem.

"6. Participants call upon Palestinian institutions to focus more attention - programmatically and physically - on Occupied Jerusalem; of special note is the needed presence of NGOs in the Old City.

"7. Participants urge donors to direct more resources for supporting Palestinian activities in Occupied Jerusalem - especially those that aim at improving the living conditions - including those in the economic, social, and housing sectors.

"8. Participants recognize the important role that religious institutions - Islamic and Christian - can play in supporting the Palestinian presence in Occupied Jerusalem through contributions to the improvement of living conditions.

"9. Participants call for the renovation of religious and historic sites and the preservation of the historic character of the city and the development of a special fund for these purposes.

"10. Participants support the educational institutions in Occupied Jerusalem and ask these institutions to organize special cultural activities in order to foster the commitment in future generations towards preserving the Arab nature of Occupied Jerusalem.

"11. Participants stress the necessity of local NGOs' improving the quality and quantity of their services in Occupied Jerusalem.

"12. Participants request the transfer of the venue of the annual United Nations conference for NGOs on the Question of Palestine to Occupied Jerusalem to support the position of Occupied Jerusalem as the capital of the Palestinian State.

"13. Work should be initiated on creating a centre for research, documentation and information about Occupied Jerusalem which would undertake the following:

"(a) Collection of information, documents and maps about Occupied Jerusalem;

"(b) Provide NGOs with information and statistics;

"(c) Conduct a survey on the conditions of various human and developmental sectors in the city (especially in the health, demographic, social, economic and educational sectors);

"(d) Publicly expose the illegal activities of the Israelis and their authorities in the city.

"14. Participants call for increased activities in opposition to the closure of the Holy City - with emphasis on an international-level demonstration against the closure."

B. Information received from NGOs

1. Middle East International, a biweekly publication, is available from P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009, United States. Issue No. 481 of 5 August 1994 includes articles on the Israeli-Jordanian Washington Declaration, on Jerusalem, on Syria and Israel and on the Middle East water crises. Issue No. 482 of 26 August 1994 includes articles on

Arafat's position on Hamas, on revising the Palestinian National Charter, on Israel and Iraq, on Jordan and Israel, on Syria and Israel and on the departure from Hebron of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH).

2. The Other Front, a weekly bulletin on developments in Israeli society, is available from P.O. Box 19543, Jerusalem. Issue No. 284 of 2 August includes articles on law and justice for Arabs and for Jews, on the Likud Party and on the agreement with Jordan. Issue No. 286 of 17 August includes articles on Israeli Arabs' struggle against budgetary discrimination and on the action committee on the release from prison of Arab citizens of Israel. Issue No. 287 of 25 August includes articles on Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz (a leading figure opposing Israeli occupation, who recently passed away), on refugees and on Yitzhak Rabin.

3. News from Within, a newsletter of the Alternative Information Centre, is available from P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem, (Fax 972 2 253151). The August 1994 issue includes articles on Palestinian women workers in the Gaza Strip, on the Israel-Jordan Agreement and Palestinian national rights, on the incident at the Erez checkpoint and on a human rights lawyer's dilemma.

4. Une Terre Deux Peuples, a publication of the Association pour l'union entre les peuples juif et palestinien, is available from C.P. 43, 1247 Anières, Geneva, Switzerland. The June-July issue includes articles on the realities of autonomy, on Yasser Arafat, on Gaza as a 'bantustan', on the Oslo plan, on the Judaization of Galilee, on the historic debate over the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, on prisoners of conscience and on women political prisoners.

5. April 17 Bulletin, a quarterly publication which focuses on Palestinian political prisoners, is available from the Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 31417, Jerusalem (Fax 972 2 253151). The issue 7 August 1994 issue contains a summary of events concerning Palestinian political prisoners for the period from September 1993 to August 1994. It includes information on prisoner releases since the Oslo Agreement, on ongoing arrests, on current statistics, on the Cairo Agreement, on women prisoners, on minors, on administrative detention and on activism in behalf of prisoners.

6. QMERS: Reflections from the Middle East, a publication of the Middle East Program of the American Friends Service Committee, is available from the American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, United States. The authors, Paul Lalor and Floresca Karanasou, residents of Amman, Jordan, travel extensively throughout the Middle East. This publication contains the authors' first-hand impressions, as well as observed reactions of residents of Gaza and Jericho to the political process, during their visits to the area in October 1993 and again in April-June 1994.

7. Forward, a Palestinian monthly magazine, is available from P.O. Box 5092, Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic. Issue No. 102 of July 1994 includes articles on Arafat and Jerusalem, on the Palestinian national movement, on the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, on Jordanian-Israeli understanding, on Israeli opposition after the Agreement, on Jordanian relations with Israel, on the last days of Ottoman rule and on Palestinian culture.

8. Report on Israeli Settlement in the Occupied Territories, a bimonthly publication of the Foundation for Middle East Peace, is available from 555 13th Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, D.C. 20004-1109 (Fax (202) 637-5910). The July issue includes articles on the debate on the Israeli-PLO Accord leaving settlements intact and on the concerns of Palestinians and Israelis about autonomy.

9. The Gaza Center for Rights and Law, an affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, issued a report entitled "Report on Human Rights in the Gaza Strip and the Working of the Cairo Agreement", dated June-July 1994. It covers killings and injuries by the Israeli Defence Forces, the Erez checkpoint and Palestinian workers, the permit system, Israeli control over access to the occupied territories, prisons, military courts, Israeli military manoeuvres, joint security in the Gaza Strip, Israeli incursions into the autonomous Palestinian areas, Israeli arrests, Israeli settlers and the coastal areas of the Gaza Strip.

10. Torture and Ill-Treatment: Israel's Interrogation of Palestinians from the Occupied Territories, a book published by and available from Human Rights Watch/Middle East, 485 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017-6104 (Fax (212) 972-0905). The book charges that Israel's two main interrogation agencies in the occupied territories follow a systematic pattern of ill-treatment and torture when trying to extract confessions or information about third parties from Palestinian security suspects. It is based partly on detailed interviews with 36 Palestinians interrogated since June 1992, including 10 interrogated since the September 1993 signing of the Declaration of Principles.

11. Israel and Palestine Political Report is available from IJPU, Boîte Postale 44, 75462 Paris Cedex 10, France (Fax 331 42 46 51 77). Issue no. 188 of June/July 1994 contains an editorial on Jews, Israelis and refugees, articles on Arafat, on the Cairo Agreement, on the Palestinian Authority and on Rabin, and a West Bank and Gaza update.

12. Press releases of the Palestine Human Rights Information Center (PHRIC) of the Arab Studies Society are available from: PHRIC International, 4201 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20008. (Fax (202) 686-5140). The following press release has been issued for the month of August:

August 24:

Press release on death threats to Mrs. Maha Nassar and on the response by Mrs. Intisar Al-Wazir (in charge of social affairs for the Palestinian Authority) to open letter on Mrs. Nassar.

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